

REMARKS

With the entry of the amendment filed March 22, 2004, claims 71-92 are pending and active. Applicants herewith amend claim 71. No new matter is added with this amendment.

In the Advisory Action mailed April 14, 2004, the Examiner stated that he would not enter the amendment. He also questioned the support in the specification for "liquid and gel" in the new claims. In response, applicants point out that the specification at page 5, line 24 to page 6, line 4, describes this embodiment. The Examiner also maintains the rejection under § 112, first paragraph, on account of the recitation of "approaching the size of large molecular complexes" to describe the size of the gap between the electrodes. In response, applicants point out that new claim 71 defines the molecular complex to be detected ("the first molecular complex") to be selected from the group consisting of nucleic acids, peptides and proteins. Thus, it is clear that the space between the electrodes must be large enough to permit DNA, peptides and proteins within such gap. That said, applicants do not intend that the molecule to be detected must be positioned within the gap between the electrodes. The specification clearly indicates that the molecule to be detected may be positioned in such gap (page 8, lines 17-20) but also may be on the surfaces of the electrodes (page 7, lines 18-20) or in the region close to the electrodes (page 6, lines 13-16).

Applicants thank Examiner Sisson for the courtesy of a telephone interview with their representative on June 16, 2004 in connection with these issues. Applicants have amended claim 71 to remove "bonding"

from the claim. This amendment is for purposes of clarity and pursuant to Examiner Sisson's suggestion.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request Examiner Sisson to consider the above remarks and enter the new claims submitted March 22, 2004 and the above amendment thereto. Early notification of allowance is earnestly requested. Examiner Sisson is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for applicants at 202-912-2142 for any reason related to the advancement of this case.


Respectfully submitted,

Date:

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